

Message Text

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ORIGIN MC-02

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DRAFTED BY PM/MC: JPWALSH

APPROVED BY PM/MC: WBROBINSON

EUR/NE:KHSHIRLEY:01/08/76

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R 230333Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, BE

SUBJECT: MC INQUIRY RE FABRIQUE D'ARMES UNIES DE LIEGE

- - AKA "CENTAURE"

REF: A. BRUSSELS 11448

B. COLT EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR CENTAURE:

09050, 0905L, 09052, AND 09053

- C. 10 FAM, APPENDIX A, 126.01

1. COLT REP IN WASH DC AND COLT FIREARMS DIV. IN HARTFORD, CONN. HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANYONE FROM THEIR FIRM INFORMING CENTAURE THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO SECURE U.S. EXPORT LICENSES FOR SHIPMENTS OF UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST (USML) ARTICLES TO COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, COLT WASH REP IS STILL LOOKING INTO MATTER AND WILL INFORM DEPT IF ANYTHING COMES UP TO SUBSTANTIATE CENTAURE'S ALLEGATION. DEPT IS UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY CENTAURE WOULD MAKE SUCH ALLEGATION SINCE NUMEROUS LICENSES HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR COLT/CENTAURE WITHOUT DELAY. FROM TIME
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TO TIME U.S. EXPORT LICENSES ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

WHEN THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE A VIOLATION OF U.S. LAW HAS OCCURRED, OR WILL OCCUR CONCERNING A PARTICULAR SHIPMENT. IN THAT EVENT THE U.S. EXPORTER IS IMMEDIATELY

INFORMED AND REQUESTED TO RETURN THE LICENSE TO THE DEPT. AFTER AN EXAMINATION OF THE FACTS SURROUNDING THE POSSIBLE VIOLATION THE LICENSE IS EITHER REINSTATED OR PERMANENTLY REVOKED, DEPENDING UPON THE FINDINGS IN EACH CASE. NO SUCH ACTION HAS EVER BEEN TAKEN ON COLT SHIPMENTS TO CENTAURE. ABOVE ALL THE DEPT HAS NEVER INFORMED ANY U.S. EXPORTER EITHER IN WRITING OR VERBALLY THAT U.S. EXPORT LICENSES FOR USML ARTICLES TO COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES COULD NOT BE OBTAINED. THE ONLY COUNTRIES WHERE THE SHIPMENT OF USML ARTICLES IS PROHIBITED ARE THOSE ENUMERATED UNDER REF C, SOUTH AFRICA, AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA. ALL OTHER COUNTRIES ARE CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

2. DEPT HAS RECEIVED FOUR APPLICATIONS ON DEC. 29, 1975 FROM COLT (REF B) REQUESTING PERMISSION TO SEND A TOTAL OF 90 REVOLVERS, 50 RIFLES, 10 PISTOLS, 10 CONVERSION UNITS, AND 15 TELESCOPIC SIGHTS TO CENTAURE. APPLICATIONS 09050, 09051 AND 09053 HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND ARE IN THE MAIL TO COLT, HARTFORD.

3. APPLICATION 09052 COVERS 25 AR-15 SPORTER RIFLES (.223CALIBER), AND 15 TELESCOPIC SIGHTS. THE AR-15 SPORTER IS A SEMI-AUTOMATIC COMMERCIAL VERSION OF THE M-16 AUTOMATIC RIFLE NOW IN USE BY U.S. FORCES. IT HAS BEEN EXPORTED BY COLT TO VARIOUS ARMS DEALERS, INCLUDING CENTAURE. POST REQUESTED PERFORM USUAL PRE-LICENSE CHECK ON THIS APPLICATION, I.E., VERIFY VALIDITY TRANSACTION, DETERMINE IF RIFLES AND SCOPES ARE FOR RESALE IN BELGIUM ONLY, OR IF THEY ARE TO BE TRANSSHIPPED TO A THIRD COUNTRY. FYI - TRANSSHIPMENTS OF FIREARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA THRU VARIOUS POINTS IN EUROPE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REPORTED TO DEPT. IN ADDITION, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THE AR-15 SPORTER HAS BEEN USED BY IRA TERRORISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AS A SNIPER RIFLE. END FYI.

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4. AS OF THIS DATE NO OTHER APPLICATIONS FROM COLT FOR CENTAURE ARE NOW PENDING WITH DEPT.

5. POST REQUESTED OBTAIN FROM CENTAURE THE NAME AND POSITION OF COLT REP WHO MADE THE SUBJECT ALLEGATION, AND ALSO THE NAME AND POSITION OF THE CENTAURE REP WHO SIGNED LETTER SENT TO EMBASSY. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Concepts: SMALL ARMS, POLICIES, MUNITIONS CONTROLS, ARMS EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPWALSH
Enclosure: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: MILI, BE, US, FABRIQUE D ARMES UNIES DE LIEGE SA, COLT INDUSTRIES, CENTAURE
To: BRUSSELS
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